

economic opportunity for coca producers and workers—the stated purpose of the Act.”

As a result of the ATPA, the U.S. had a \$10 billion trade deficit with the four ATPA countries in 2006. Specifically, the asparagus and fresh-cut flower industries have been severely hurt by lower prices. Since the implementation of ATPA, asparagus acreage in the United States dropped from 90,000 acres in 1991 to under 49,000 acres in 2006.

There are 40,000 flower workers in Ecuador and over 100,000 in Colombia working to grow, harvest, and package flowers. Unfortunately, these workers routinely experience labor rights violations including violations of the right to freedom of association. H.R. 5264 does not include stronger labor provisions.

Before agreeing to extend the Andean Trade Preferences Act for a third time, Congress should have taken a closer look at damage it has done to American farmers and how it has failed to reduce illegal drug production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOSE
FRANCISCO “FRANK” TORRES

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge Jose Francisco “Frank” Torres, a native of southern Colorado and until his passing a resident of the 3rd Congressional District of New Mexico.

Judge Frank Torres was a crusader for civil rights who upon retirement lived in New Mexico, the home of his ancestors, for 21 years. He was descended from the original Spanish colonists that arrived with General Juan De Onate in 1598 to establish the first European settlement in the United States. He was married to Crusita Kimball Torres, who was a descendant of the first territorial Governor of New Mexico. His daughter, Eva Torres Ashenbrenner, is my constituent, renowned for her involvement in the community and for her love and commitment to New Mexico and its cultural heritage. She continues her father's tradition of community involvement and public service.

Judge Torres practiced and taught good citizenship throughout his life and brought the highest moral values and standards not only to each position he occupied, but to his private life as well.

Judge Torres was an accomplished man who despite adversity became one of the first Hispanic attorneys in Colorado. Among his many accomplishments, Judge Torres strongly opposed the activities of the Ku Klux Klan, organized the first credit unions in southern Colorado in 1938, and was actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America for some 70 years, earning its highest honors “the silver beaver award,” for his leading of Troops and service on the Boy Scouts Regional Council. Also, during the Depression years Judge Torres organized and directed a charitable homeless persons shelter in Trinidad, Colorado, which was one of the earliest efforts in the region.

He provided strong and equal legal representation to everyone, including those too

poor to afford legal representation. He worked to secure the rights and interests of the elderly poor and defended the Alianza Hispano Americana in legal cases brought by the State of Arizona to take control of that organization.

Judge Torres organized and was elected president of the Colorado Spanish American Club, served as president of the Colorado State Board of credit unions, was elected vice-president of the Colorado Young Democrats, and worked as legal counsel to the Las Animas County Catholic Church's Knights of Columbus, representing them at national conventions.

Judge Torres was well known in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and befriended notable New Mexican historians such as Fray Angelico Chavez and Orlando Romero and other notable figures such as Raphael Chacon, Casimire Barela, Elfego Baca, and former Congressman Bronson Cutting.

Madam Speaker, Frank Torres was a crusader during his time as an attorney and judge, and it is fitting that he is honored for his great work and service to the people of Colorado and New Mexico.

THE NATIONAL OCEAN
EXPLORATION PROGRAM ACT

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was pleased to cosponsor and vote for the National Ocean Exploration Program Act, H.R. 1834, which authorizes two excellent and successful National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, programs, the National Undersea Research Program, NURP, and the Ocean Exploration program, OE.

While new technologies have enabled us, for example, to create high-resolution maps of the sea floor, to measure plate movements, or to study ocean processes quantitatively, the world's oceans remain, to a great extent, unknown. We know so little about the ocean's living creatures, nonliving resources, and processes. We don't know enough about the impact of global climate and other environmental change on the ocean. Ocean exploration and ocean research complement each other. Because of the importance of our oceans to life on earth, we need to step up the pace of both exploration and research to be able to make informed decisions about issues related to the ocean.

This bill promotes integration of the two programs, combining their strengths and capabilities, in order to serve our country and NOAA more effectively. NURP has maintained a network of regional centers of undersea science and technology for 30 years, while OE, when established in 2001, began a national effort to explore the ocean. Both programs have been collaborating in development of innovative technologies for exploration, and on voyages of exploration, such as an expedition in the South Pacific that discovered new marine environments and ecosystems.

The complementary relationship between the two programs within NOAA will make the

whole greater than the sum of its parts. The bill's authorization of these programs will help provide the best scientific information on ocean habitats and other phenomena, and will ensure that this information is widely distributed. We must explore and work to reveal the unknown so that we can deepen our understanding of crucial oceanic environmental issues and inspire scientists, educators, decision-makers, and the public to learn more about the ocean. In the coming years, America's economic, environmental and national security may depend on our knowledge of the ocean, and our understanding of how it sustains life on earth.

TRIBUTE TO THE PEACE CORPS
47TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support and appreciation for the Peace Corps on their 47th anniversary. Since 1961, more than 190,000 American volunteers have served in 139 developing countries around the world. Since its founding, the Peace Corps has sought to meet its legislative mandate of promoting world peace and friendship by sending American volunteers to serve at the grassroots level in villages and towns abroad. These Peace Corps volunteers live and work with local people, helping them improve their lives, and helping them understand American culture. The volunteers often work as teachers, environmental and agriculture specialists, health promoters, and small business advisors.

I have been an extremely strong supporter of the Peace Corps ever since President John F. Kennedy first proposed it in a speech in Ann Arbor, Michigan, many years ago. The Peace Corps is one of America's most effective ways to share our compassion and values abroad, and, in many instances, the volunteers play the important role of dispelling myths about the U.S. I would dearly love to see the Peace Corps double or triple in size.

I also praise and recognize those volunteers from the Third Congressional District of Michigan who are currently serving abroad in the Peace Corps. My thanks go out to: Chad Anderson, serving in Uganda; Brent Benner, serving in Peru; Edna Bermejo, serving in Mauritania; Brendan Brink-Halloran, serving in Guatemala; Amanda Collier, serving in Romania; Christopher De Bruyn, serving in Mongolia; Adrienne Gilbert, serving in the Dominican Republic; Sara Igleski, serving in Jordan; Rachel Jacobs, serving in Zambia; Joshua Johnson, serving in Romania; Jeffrey Luehm, serving in El Salvador; Elizabeth Smith, serving in Senegal; Joseph Stevens, serving in Bolivia; Daniel Vander Ploeg, serving in Kazakhstan; Meredith Vanover, serving in Ukraine; Kirstin Webster, serving in Romania; Daniel Westerhof, serving in Paraguay; and Michael Wilcox, serving in Senegal.

Again, congratulations to the Peace Corps on their 47th anniversary. I thank and commend all of those who so faithfully volunteer to serve our Nation abroad.